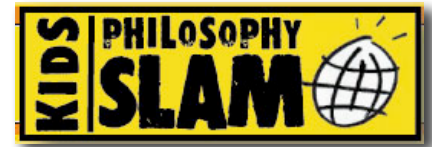


The mission of the Kids Philosophy Slam is to give kids a voice and to inspire kids to think by unlocking their intellectual and creative potential through a unique and powerful philosophical forum.”



Philosophy is the study of the basic truths and ideas about the universe, the system of ideas and principles that govern an individual's life, or a personal set of opinions about life and the world.

### **2014 Topic: Truth or beauty, which has a greater impact on society?**

1. **Label your entry** with the student's name, age, grade, teacher, school, school address, phone number, and teacher email address.
2. **For essays, prose, or poetry**, put this information on the **TOP FRONT** of the page.

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**Due Thursday, February 13, 2014 – Emailed To Mr. Hall**

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#### **Suggestions for approaching the topic:**

In Robert M. Sapolsky's Wall Street Journal article "Pretty Smart? Why We Equate Truth With Beauty," he investigates how the brain interprets the concepts of beauty and truth. He makes the argument that although we often equate beauty with truth, even when it is not true, we also see truthful and good things as beautiful when they might appear at first glance to be unappealing. In essence, Sapolsky takes a common cliché about beauty, "Beauty is Truth," and explains through research and personal experience how this common saying is far more complicated and intriguing.

A cliché is an expression or an idea that has become overused to the point of losing its original meaning or effect, even to the point of being trite or irritating, especially when at some earlier time it was considered meaningful or novel (Blake and Bly). Here are some clichés about **beauty** and **truth**.

- |  |                                |
|--|--------------------------------|
| • Beauty Is In The Eye Of The Beholder | • The Truth Is Hard To Come By |
| • Beauty Is Only Skin Deep             | • Beauty Is Fleeting           |
| • Beauty Is Pain                       | • Beauty Is A Curse            |
| • Truth Is Beauty                      | • Beauty Is A Virtue           |
| • Is Beauty Truth; Is Truth Beauty?    | • Truth Is An Illusion         |
| • Truth Is Stranger Than Fiction       | • Truth Is A Pathless Land     |

Using the thesis formula as your guide, choose one of the above clichés and explain how this cliché is more complicated than it appears. Use evidence from history, literature, or your own personal experiences:

#### **Sample Thesis:**

"Although many people believe [insert cliché], [beauty or truth] is a more [complex / powerful / potent / influential / etc.] [force or idea], because [beauty or truth] \_\_\_\_\_."

#### **Works Cited:**

Blake, Gary and Robert W. Bly. *The Elements of Technical Writing*. New York: Macmillan Publishers, 1993.

Sapolsky, Robert M. "Pretty Smart? Why We Equate Truth With Beauty." *The Wall Street Journal*. 17 January 2014. <<http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304549504579318510470992446>> 25 January 2014.

#### **6th Grade - 8th Grade:**

This age category may write prose, poetry, or an essay of 500 words or less. Judging will be based on originality and creativity, strength of philosophical argument, spelling and grammar. For more information, please visit the website <http://www.philosophyslam.org/>. If you use resources when preparing your entry, be sure to cite your sources using the format specified in the "Buckley Style Guide."